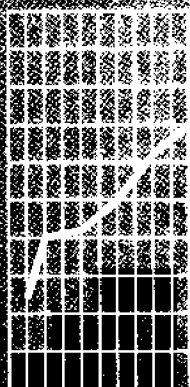


NEW ISSUE

EMBARGO: 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) MON 12 MAY 1997

Australians' Employment and Unemployment Patterns

1994–1996, First Results



ABS Catalogue No. 6289.0

NOTES

THE SURVEY

The objectives of the Survey of Employment and Unemployment Patterns (SEUP) are to provide information on the dynamics of the labour market, and, more specifically, to assist in the assessment of the impact of labour market assistance initiatives in alleviating the extent of joblessness in Australian society.

The SEUP is a longitudinal survey in that information will be collected from the same individuals (referred to as a panel) over a number of years (waves). The panel includes people living in private dwellings in both urban and rural areas and was established in the period 24 April to 7 July 1995 (for simplicity referred to as 'May 1995'). Further interviews were conducted in October 1995 and October 1996. Detailed labour market activity information, together with a wide range of socio-demographic variables, is now available for the period September 1994 to September 1996 based on a sample of 7,600 people.

Labour market activities are described in terms of episodes of 'working', 'looking for work', or 'absent from the labour market' (neither working nor looking for work). The categorisation of each episode is based on the respondent's judgement rather than on the application of the more rigorous classification used in the monthly Labour Force Survey. A person will be categorised as both 'working' and 'looking for work' if these activities are undertaken concurrently. However, no overlap is allowed between either of these two states and that of 'absent from the labour market'.

.....

THIS PUBLICATION

This is the second release of data from the SEUP and more details about the concepts and design of the survey can be found in the publication *Australians' Employment and Unemployment Patterns, Jobseekers, September 1995* (Cat. no. 6286.0), which presents data from the first wave.

This publication presents summary results for Jobseekers and for the general population. Broadly speaking, Jobseekers are persons who, *at May 1995*, were unemployed, marginally attached to the labour force or underemployed. Information about the general population is based on a random sample of all persons aged 15–59 at May 1995. The information presented covers a two-year period, thereby facilitating the examination of changes to the characteristics of both Jobseekers and the general population up to September 1996.

.....

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

* subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

.....

INQUIRIES

More detailed data are available on request, and a more extensive publication will be released later in 1997. For further information, contact Nicky Adams by email at Nicky.Adams@abs.gov.au or on Canberra (06) 252 7401.

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

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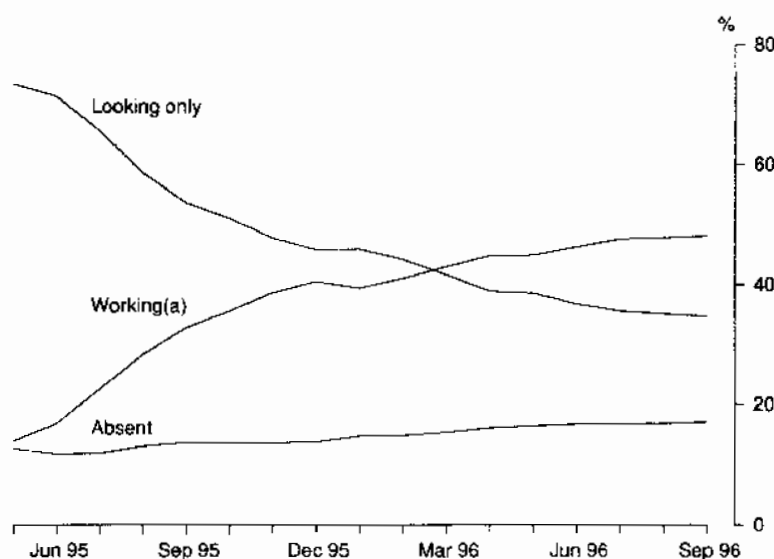
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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

LABOUR MARKET ACTIVITIES

In May 1995, there were 875,100 Jobseekers in Australia. A third of these people were working four months later. However, in subsequent months there was only a gradual increase in the number in work — 45% in May 1996 and 48% in September 1996. Of the 421,600 Jobseekers who were working at September 1996, 94,100 (22%) were looking for another job (table 5).

The patterns of Jobseekers' labour market activities since May 1995 are shown in the following graph.



(a) Includes people who were working and looking for work concurrently.

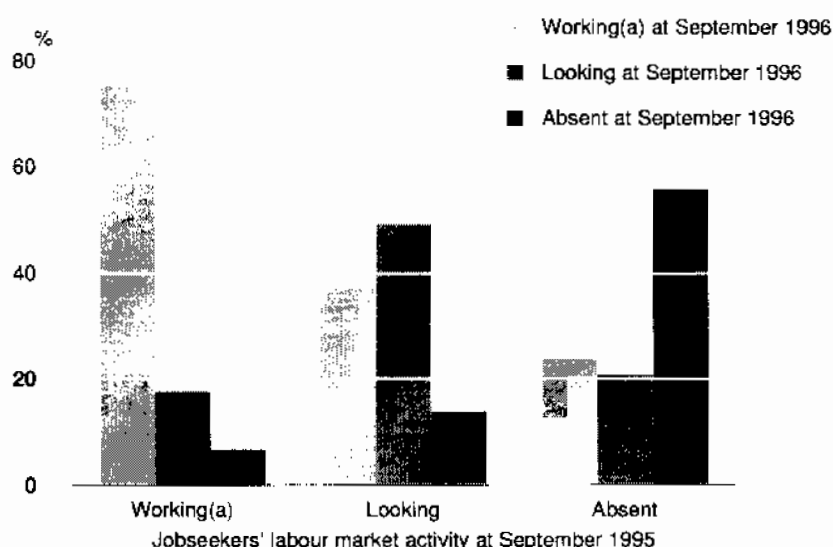
Overall, 68% of Jobseekers worked at some stage in the 12 months to September 1996, compared to 84% of the general population in the same age range. Just over 78% of Jobseekers looked for work at some stage over the same period compared to 23% of the general population (table 1). Almost 12% of Jobseekers worked for the entire year, contrasting with 57% of the general population. The average time spent working was 22 weeks for Jobseekers, and 39 weeks for the general population.

On average, Jobseekers worked for five weeks during the six months ended September 1995, increasing to 12 weeks in the six months ended September 1996. Conversely, the average time spent looking for work (only) decreased from 17 weeks to 10 weeks (table 3).

Some 16% of Jobseekers spent all of the year ended September 1996 looking for work (only) compared to 2% of the general population. The average time spent looking for work (only) was 22 weeks for Jobseekers, and four weeks for the general population. One in ten Jobseekers (87,600 people) did nothing but look for work for the entire two-year period since September 1994 (table 2).

Of Jobseekers who were working at September 1995, 76% were also working at September 1996, and of the remainder, most were looking for work. Of those Jobseekers looking for work (only) at September 1995, almost half (49%) were in the same situation a year later; however, 37% had found work (table 5).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*



(a) Includes people who were working and looking for work concurrently.

In the general population, 92% of persons who were working at September 1995 were also working 12 months later, while 5% were absent from the labour market and 3% were looking for work. Of those who were looking for work (only) at September 1995, 43% were in the same situation a year later; however, 45% had been successful in finding work (table 8).

INCOME

Of the 574,800 Jobseekers who were reliant on government benefits as their main source of annual income in 1994-95, 65% were still in this situation in the following financial year.

Some 228,700 Jobseekers received a wage and salary as their main source of income in 1994-95 but 33% of these were in a different situation the following financial year (compared with an equivalent figure of 9% for the general population) (table 1).

RELATIONSHIP IN HOUSEHOLD

Of Jobseekers who were a husband or wife in September 1995, 6% were in a different living arrangement a year later, more than twice the proportion in the general population (table 1).

HOUSING MOBILITY

Jobseekers were significantly more mobile than the general population — 29% had moved house in the year ended September 1996 compared to 16% of the general population (table 1).

HOUSING TENURE

Some 59% of Jobseekers were renting accommodation in September 1995, and of these, 89% were also renting a year later. In contrast, 30% of the general population were renting in September 1995 (table 1).

Summary of characteristics and changes	Jobseekers at May 1995.....		General population(a).....	
	'000	%	'000	%
.....				
Labour market activity in 12 months to Sep 1996				
Worked at some stage	597.5	68.3	9 242.7	83.6
Looked for work at some stage	683.6	78.1	2 558.1	23.1
Absent at some stage	265.2	30.3	3 014.5	27.3
Shift in income quintiles(b) between 1994-95 and 1995-96				
Stayed in the same quintile	436.1	49.8	6 107.9	55.3
Moved up 1 quintile	183.9	21.0	1 820.8	16.5
Moved up 2 or more quintiles	62.1	7.1	482.0	4.4
Moved down 1 quintile	101.8	11.6	1 013.4	9.2
Moved down 2 or more quintiles	20.5	2.3	619.8	5.6
Not determined	70.7	8.1	1 006.6	9.1
Main source of annual income in financial year				
Income support in 1994-95	574.8	65.7	2 038.1	18.4
Income support in 1995-96	376.1	43.0	1 556.5	14.1
Not income support in 1995-96	198.7	22.7	481.6	4.4
Wages and salaries in 1994-95	228.7	26.1	7 924.1	71.7
Wages and salaries in 1995-96	152.8	17.5	7 232.9	65.5
Not wages and salaries in 1995-96	75.9	8.7	691.2	6.3
Other in 1994-95	71.6	8.2	1 088.3	9.8
Educational qualifications				
Gained a qualification in the 12 months to Sep 1996	53.9	6.2	759.1	6.9
Did not gain a qualification in the 12 months to Sep 1996	821.2	93.8	10 291.3	93.1
Relationship in household				
Husband or wife at Sep 1995	381.2	43.6	6 615.6	59.9
Husband or wife at Sep 1996	359.5	41.1	6 436.7	58.2
Not a husband or wife at Sep 1996	21.7	2.5	178.9	1.6
Not a husband or wife at Sep 1995	494.0	56.5	4 434.8	40.1
Husband or wife at Sep 1996	40.2	4.6	482.1	4.4
Not a husband or wife at Sep 1996	453.8	51.9	3 952.7	35.8
Housing mobility				
Moved in the 12 months to Sep 1996	254.9	29.1	1 781.2	16.1
Did not move in the 12 months to Sep 1996	620.2	70.9	9 269.3	83.9
Housing tenure				
Owner at Sep 1995	128.5	14.7	2 924.3	26.5
Owner at Sep 1996	115.7	13.2	2 625.9	23.8
Not an owner at Sep 1996	12.8	1.5	298.4	2.7
Purchaser at Sep 1995	117.0	13.4	3 190.4	28.9
Purchaser at Sep 1996	93.0	10.6	2 613.5	23.7
Not a purchaser at Sep 1996	24.0	2.7	567.9	5.2
Renter at Sep 1995	518.9	59.3	3 361.7	30.4
Renter at Sep 1996	463.8	53.0	2 914.3	26.4
Not a renter at Sep 1996	55.1	6.3	447.5	4.1
Other(c) at Sep 1995	110.7	12.7	1 561.7	14.1
Total	875.1	100.0	11 050.5	100.0
.....				

(a) All persons aged 15 to 59 at May 1995.

(b) Groupings of 20% of the estimated population when units in the population are ranked in ascending order according to each unit's income. For both Jobseekers and the general population, shifts between income quintiles are based on quintiles applying to the general population.

(c) Comprises people who are boarders, live rent free or have other living arrangements.

	AGE GROUP (YEARS).....					SEX.....		TOTAL
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-59	Males	Females	Persons
<i>Labour market activity</i>	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
.....								
SEPTEMBER 1994 TO SEPTEMBER 1995								
One activity only	28.5	34.1	56.6	63.4	69.2	147.8	103.7	251.6
Working	*1.6	*1.2	*1.9	*2.6	*1.7	*3.5	5.4	9.0
Looking for work	22.7	30.0	47.1	55.3	61.1	139.2	76.9	216.1
Absent	4.2	*2.9	7.6	5.5	6.4	5.1	21.4	26.5
More than one activity	117.6	126.2	160.2	121.2	98.5	337.1	286.5	623.4
Worked and looked for work	45.0	61.3	82.4	61.9	49.1	194.2	105.5	299.6
Worked and absent	4.3	3.9	6.6	4.5	*3.3	9.2	13.4	22.5
Looked for work and absent	26.6	19.1	26.4	26.1	25.3	45.2	78.2	123.4
Worked, looked for work and absent	41.7	41.9	44.8	28.7	20.8	88.5	89.4	177.9
Total	145.9	160.3	216.7	184.5	167.6	484.9	390.2	875.1
.....								
SEPTEMBER 1995 TO SEPTEMBER 1996								
One activity only	35.5	53.4	71.2	85.6	71.1	159.4	137.4	296.8
Working	15.4	23.2	28.5	23.3	11.8	54.7	47.5	102.2
Looking for work	14.9	21.3	31.5	32.9	42.6	89.4	53.9	143.3
Absent	5.2	8.9	11.2	9.4	16.7	15.3	36.0	51.3
More than one activity	110.4	106.8	145.7	119.0	96.5	325.4	252.7	578.3
Worked and looked for work	72.6	68.7	91.1	76.0	56.2	228.6	135.8	364.4
Worked and absent	6.9	5.8	12.6	7.8	4.8	13.2	24.7	38.0
Looked for work and absent	12.3	11.1	15.5	19.3	24.8	38.3	44.7	83.0
Worked, looked for work and absent	18.6	21.2	26.5	15.9	10.7	45.3	47.5	92.9
Total	145.9	160.3	216.7	184.5	167.6	484.9	390.2	875.1
.....								
SEPTEMBER 1994 TO SEPTEMBER 1996								
One activity only	9.8	15.2	21.6	26.7	36.0	60.8	48.5	109.4
Working	*1.2	*1.2	*1.2	*1.7	*1.0	*3.0	*3.2	6.3
Looking for work	7.1	11.5	16.8	21.9	30.3	55.9	31.7	87.6
Absent	*1.5	*2.5	3.6	*3.1	4.7	*1.9	13.6	15.5
More than one activity	136.1	145.1	195.1	157.9	131.7	424.0	341.6	765.8
Worked and looked for work	50.5	65.8	91.1	78.5	57.3	229.4	113.7	343.1
Worked and absent	3.6	*2.1	5.9	4.4	*2.8	5.3	13.4	18.7
Looked for work and absent	13.5	14.1	19.5	23.7	33.8	45.3	59.3	104.7
Worked, looked for work and absent	68.5	63.1	78.6	51.3	37.8	144.0	155.2	299.3
Total	145.9	160.3	216.7	184.5	167.6	484.9	390.2	875.1
.....								

3

JOBSEEKERS AT MAY 1995, Average Time in Each Labour Market Activity

LABOUR MARKET ACTIVITY.....

<i>Period</i>	<i>Working only weeks</i>	<i>Working and looking for work weeks</i>	<i>Looking for work only weeks</i>	<i>Absent weeks</i>	<i>Total weeks</i>
September 1994 to September 1995	8.7	3.4	31.8	8.1	52.0
First 6 months	5.5	1.2	14.5	4.7	26.0
Second 6 months	3.3	2.1	17.3	3.3	26.0
September 1995 to September 1996	16.7	5.5	21.8	8.0	52.0
First 6 months	7.5	2.7	12.1	3.7	26.0
Second 6 months	9.3	2.8	9.6	4.3	26.0
September 1994 to September 1996	25.5	8.8	53.6	16.0	104.0

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JOBSEEKERS AT MAY 1995. Average Time in Each Labour Market Activity—Age and Sex

[illegible]

5

JOBSEEKERS AT MAY 1995, Labour Market Activity—Sep 1995 and Sep 1996

LABOUR MARKET ACTIVITY AT SEPTEMBER 1996.....

	Working only	Working and looking for work	Looking for work only	Absent	Total	Persons
Labour market activity at September 1995	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Working only	72.0	5.7	15.1	7.1	100.0	201.4
Working and looking for work	34.8	36.0	23.0	6.2	100.0	93.5
Looking for work only	27.0	10.0	49.1	13.9	100.0	464.0
Absent	21.4	*2.2	20.7	55.9	100.0	116.2
Total	37.4	10.8	34.7	17.1	100.0	875.1

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GENERAL POPULATION(a), Summary of Labour Market Activity—Year Ended Sep 1996

	AGE GROUP (YEARS).....					SEX.....		TOTAL..
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-59	Males	Females	Persons
Labour market activity	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
One activity only	665.0	671.8	1 965.2	2 173.1	2 373.1	3 916.3	3 932.0	7 848.3
Working	449.3	556.1	1 665.0	1 926.1	1 672.4	3 575.0	2 693.9	6 268.9
Looking for work	*38.8	*31.0	*52.2	*27.9	*77.6	128.8	98.7	227.5
Absent	176.9	84.7	248.0	219.1	623.1	212.5	1 139.4	1 351.9
More than one activity	663.9	1 283.3	782.8	549.3	594.7	1 618.3	1 583.8	3 202.1
Worked and looked for work	323.1	240.9	361.4	339.2	274.9	969.3	570.2	1 539.5
Worked and absent	97.2	181.3	265.8	133.9	193.3	350.5	521.0	871.5
Looked for work and absent	*69.7	*42.1	*27.2	*42.4	*46.9	*81.6	146.7	228.3
Worked, looked for work and absent	173.9	147.2	128.4	*33.8	*79.6	216.9	345.9	562.8
Total	1 328.9	1 283.3	2 748.0	2 722.5	2 967.8	5 534.6	5 515.8	11 050.5

(a) All persons aged 15 to 59 at May 1995.

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GENERAL POPULATION(a), Average Time in Each Labour Market Activity—Year Ended Sep 1996

	AGE GROUP(YEARS).....					SEX.....		TOTAL
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-59	Males	Females	Persons
<i>Labour market activity</i>	weeks	weeks	weeks	weeks	weeks	weeks	weeks	weeks
Working only	30.1	35.9	38.3	41.3	34.1	41.1	32.1	36.6
Working and looking for work	2.9	2.1	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.9	2.0	2.4
Looking for work only	6.9	5.8	3.0	2.3	2.6	3.9	3.2	3.5
Absent	12.3	8.1	8.2	5.9	12.9	4.1	14.7	9.4
Total	52.0	52.0	52.0	52.0	52.0	52.0	52.0	52.0

(a) All persons aged 15 to 59 at May 1995.

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GENERAL POPULATION(a), Labour Market Activity—Sep 1995 and Sep 1996

LABOUR MARKET ACTIVITY AT SEPTEMBER 1996.....

	Working only	Working and looking for work	Looking for work only	Absent	Total	Persons
	%	%	%	%	%	'000
<i>Labour market activity at September 1995</i>						
Working only	90.5	2.1	2.6	4.8	100.0	7 627.5
Working and looking for work	37.9	43.0	*14.2	*5.0	100.0	542.0
Looking for work only	35.2	*9.5	43.0	12.3	100.0	820.9
Absent	17.1	*0.9	7.1	75.0	100.0	2 059.9
Total	70.1	4.4	7.0	18.5	100.0	11 050.5

(a) All persons aged 15 to 59 at May 1995.

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Recommended retail price: \$13.50



2628900001941

ISSN 1328-0759